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A New Colubrid Snake of the Genus *Pseudorabdion* from Sumatra

ROBERT F. INGER

CURATOR, DIVISION OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

AND

ALAN E. LEVITON

DEPARTMENT OF HERPETOLOGY, CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Recently the Naturhistorisches Museum of Vienna sent a collection of Indo-Malayan snakes to Chicago Natural History Museum in connection with a study being carried out by the senior author. This collection includes a single specimen of a new species of the genus *Pseudorabdion*. We are grateful to Dr. J. Eiselt of the Naturhistorisches Museum for permission to describe this species, which we are naming after him.

Pseudorabdion eiselti, new species. Figure 13.

Holotype.—Naturhistorisches Museum number 16806, a gravid female from Padang, Sumatra, collected by J. Schild, 1899.

Diagnosis.—No preocular or loreal shields; postocular and supraocular shields not fused together or to the ocular shield; frontal separated from eye by supraocular; nasal small, undivided; inter-nasal touches first two supralabials.

Description of holotype.—Rostral as high as wide, portion visible from above equal to length of internasal suture; internasal small, greatest length about half that of prefrontal; internasal touches first and second supralabials; prefrontal three-fourths of length of frontal, touches second and third supralabials and eye; supraocular distinct from postocular, about one-third of width of frontal; frontal hexagonal, separated from orbit, two-thirds of length of parietal; length of parietal equal to its distance from tip of snout; nasal undivided, small, not covering entire dorsal edge of first supralabial; no loreal or preocular; postocular not as high as eye; diameter of eye equal to

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vertical distance from eye to mouth; five supralabials and a large postlabial scale; supralabials increasing in size posteriorly, the fifth much the largest, the third and fourth bordering the eye; fifth labial broadly in contact with parietal; a large scale between the postlabial and parietal; mental touches anterior chin shields; five infralabials, the first three touching the anterior chin shields; a gular scale partly separates the posterior chin shields, which are no larger than gulars; 10 maxillary teeth.

Scales smooth, without apical pits, in 15 longitudinal rows which are reduced to 13 opposite the fifth ventral before the anal through

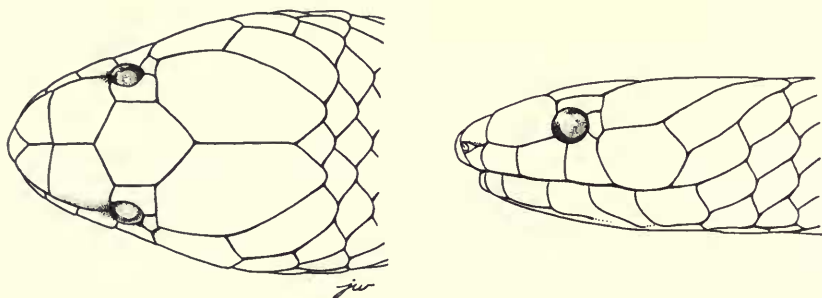


FIG. 13. Dorsal and lateral views of holotype of *Pseudorabdion eiselti*, new sp. Actual size 8 mm.

loss or fusion of lateral scale row 3; caudodorsal scales reduced to 4 opposite the tenth subcaudal posterior to vent; ventrals 130, the last one split; anal undivided; subcaudals 12, paired.

Total length 200 mm., tail 10 mm., head to end of parietals 7.5 mm., diameter of eye 1.4 mm.

Color (in alcohol) faded but evidently dark brown above and below, each dorsal scale with a light network or light apical spot; head dark brown above, upper lip lighter; an obscure yellowish crescent along lateral margin of parietals.

Comparisons.—In head scutellation *eiselti* resembles three Philippine species: *ater* (Taylor), *oxycephalum* (Günther), and *montanum* Leviton and Brown. It differs from all three in having distinct supraocular and postocular shields, the internasal meeting the first supralabials behind the nasal (indicating the shortness of the nasal shield), and a proportionally larger eye. The proportion of eye diameter to eye-mouth distance shown by Leviton and Brown (1959; fig. 5) for *Pseudorabdion montanum* is incorrect. The eye is much

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too large, compared to the vertical length of the adjacent supralabials, and should be reduced by one-third. The eye diameter/eye-mouth distance ratio is correctly portrayed for *P. oxycephalum* (fig. 4, op. cit.), which *P. montanum* most closely resembles. The eye diameter/eye-mouth distance ratio in *eiselii* is similar to that in *P. longiceps* (fig. 1, op. cit.).

Pseudorabdion ater differs further from *P. eiselii* in having the frontal bordering the eye and the nasal divided. *Pseudorabdion oxycephalum* and *P. montanum* have higher ventral and subcaudal counts than *eiselii*. The counts for females of these species are: *oxycephalum* 144-157 and 16-17; *montanum* 154-161 and 21-22; *eiselii* 130 and 12. Data for the Philippine species are from Leviton and Brown (1959).

The only known species that may be sympatric with *eiselii* is *P. longiceps* (Cantor), which has been recorded from the west coast of Sumatra at Ayer Bangis (de Rooij, 1917), about 170 km. from the type locality of *eiselii*. It differs from *eiselii* in the presence of a preocular, the separation of the internasals from the labials, and higher subcaudal counts (females 17-20). Both *longiceps* and *eiselii* have larger eyes and more maxillary teeth than their Philippine congeners that also lack loreal shields.

All other species of *Pseudorabdion* differ from *eiselii* at least in the presence of loreals and in having the prefrontals and internasals separated from the labials (a direct consequence of having distinct loreals). One, *albonuchalis* (Günther), has the frontal bordering the eye. Two, *saravacensis* (Shelford) and *sarasinorum* (Müller), have more maxillary teeth (18-21 and 14 respectively) than *eiselii* (10). And at least two, *taylori* Leviton and Brown and *mcnamarae* Taylor, have higher subcaudal counts (females 33-35 and 20-23, respectively). The counts are from Leviton and Brown (1959).

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